group of 2 to 12 carbon atoms which may have a substituent, an aryl group of 6 to 12 carbon atoms which may have a substituent, an aralkyl group of 7 to 12 carbon atoms which may have a substituent, a cyano group, a carboxyl group and an alkoxycarbonyl group; $R^3$ represents any of an alkyl group of 1 to 12 carbon atoms, an aryl group of 6 to 12 carbon atoms and an aralkyl group of 7 to 12 carbon atoms; and $R^2$ and $R^3$ may be joined to each other to form a ring, in the presence of a magnesium halide.

[4. The process according to Claim 1 wherein a magnesium halide is added in permitting the lithium amide to act.]

5. (Amended) The process according to Claim [4]1 wherein magnesium chloride is used as the magnesium halide.

[19. The process according to Claim 2 wherein a magnesium halide is added in permitting the lithium amide to act.]

[20. The process according to Claim 3 wherein a magnesium halide is added in permitting the lithium amide to act.]

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 5-18 are now in the application. Claim 1 has been amended to recite "in the presence of a magnesium halide". This recitation finds support in original patent at col. 7, line 65 to col. 8, line 3. In view of the amendment to claim 1, claims 4, 19 and 20 have been canceled. The amendments to the claim do not introduce any new matter.

In view of the above allowance is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

By _____

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